(b) A request was received from Justices Thakkar-Natarajan Commission of Inquiry seeking extension for a period of 3 months with effect from 6th July, 1987 for completing the inquiry and submitting its report. After examining the request, the term of the Hon'ble Commission was extended upto 5th October, 1987.

Prime Minister's interview to India Today on Bofors Issue

2244. SHRI JASWANT SINGH:
SHRI A. C. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the interview to India Today on 30th June, amongst other things, the Prime Minister had stated, "that does not mean that we are not acting on the hard facts that we have";

(b) if so, what are the hard facts that the Prime Minister has in his possession in respect of the Bofors deal; and

(c) since when he has had them and what action as so far been taken upon them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The hard facts consist of the material contained in the Report of the Swedish National Audit Bureau as communicated to the Govt. of India on 4th June, 1987. Consequent thereto, fuller information was sought both from the Swedish Govt. and M/s. Bofors. Besides, Govt. decided to request the Presiding Officers of both the Houses of Parliament to establish a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Parliament has since approved a Motion to establish a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Investigations against Shri Win Chadda and some of the associates were also initiated.

Prime Minister's interview regarding Swedish National Audit Bureau

2245. SHRI JASWANT SINGH:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister gave interview to INDIA TODAY which was carried in its issue of 30 June, 1987,

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the interview the Prime Minister has stated that Government's stand *has been vindicated by the findings of* the Swedish National Audit Bureau; and

(c) if so, in which specific respect?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister's observations speak for themselves and require no further elucidation

Arrest of officials of Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore

2246. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some senior officials of Cossipore Gun and Shell Factory and an American business representative, whose firm supplies items to the defence production unit, were arrested on the 12th June, 1987 from the Inspection Bangalow of Cossipore Club and were detained on the 13th June, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether a departmental inquiry has been ordered;

(d) if so, what is the nature of inquiry; and

(e) whether any other steps have been taken in the matter?